

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Acambis

#### Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### Acambis Launches Erp Solution To Support Multi-Site Operations

##### Client Profile:

Acambis, Inc. is a biopharmaceutical company researching, developing, and manufacturing vaccines to prevent and treat infectious diseases. Operations include sites in Cambridge, United Kingdom, and Cambridge and Canton, Massachusetts. The Canton facility will be the manufacturing site for the company and is currently ramping up vaccine production resources to include personnel, processes, and equipment. Acambis has a broad portfolio of vaccine product candidates undergoing clinical trials and technology platforms that provide the basis for further vaccine product candidates. Acambis currently employs over 100 people company-wide.

##### Situation:

Acambis-Canton initially contacted the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MassMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for guidance in the selection of an information system to manage materials for smallpox vaccine production. Through a systematic requirements process, MassMEP discovered that duplicate system selection efforts were underway at the other Acambis facilities. MassMEP recommended that Acambis centralize the selection process to gather enterprise resource planning (ERP) requirements at the corporate level.

##### Solution:

MassMEP proposed a three-phase ERP selection process for Acambis: requirements definition, short list delivery, and final selection. Each phase required participation from all Acambis facilities and functional areas. MassMEP interviewed key contacts from each area and established a selection committee with the support of executive management. MassMEP coordinated and facilitated all activities with potential solution providers prior to final selection in June 2002. During the aggressive eight-month implementation phase, MassMEP served as advisor to the Acambis ERP project manager and as an on-site project manager at the Canton facility.

The ERP system Acambis selected is an integrated business information management system with a strong presence in the process manufacturing and biopharmaceutical arena. The solution encompasses company needs across financial, contract management, materials management, and process manufacturing while addressing federal validation requirements.

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**Results:**

Decreased internal resource requirements by 40 percent by utilizing MEP services.

Launched new ERP system at all facilities in March 2003.

Reduced paperwork.

Improved reporting for supply chain inventory status, location, and valuation.

Streamlined purchasing cycle.

**Testimonial:**

"Selecting enterprise-wide software is not an everyday occurrence for any organization; neither is implementing it across three sites on two continents.

The Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership knew exactly the right path to take and the right questions to ask for us to do both successfully."

Lindy Standing, Corporate ERP Project Manager